

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9892

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3067

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, SP  
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S VIEWS ON THE INTERNAL SITUATION

1. I CALLED ON PRIME MINISTR SUAREZ AT MY REQUEST  
EARLY THIS AFTERNOON AT THE MONCLOA PALACE AND MET  
ALONE WITH HIM. WE DISCUSSED HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP  
TO THE UNITED STATES (SEPTEL) AND THE INTERNAL  
SITUATION. THE PRIME MINISTER LOOKED SOMEWHAT TIRED  
BUT WAS RELAXED AND UNHURRIED IN OUR CONVERSATION  
WHICH LASTED ABOUT 35 MINUTES. WE COVERED THE  
FOLLOWING MATTERS.

2. HIS CANDIDACY IN THE ELECTIONS. SUAREZ TOLD ME  
THAT IN HIS RADIO TELEVISION SPEECH TO THE COUNTRY  
ON SATURDAY APRIL 23, HE WOULD ANNOUNCE HIS INTENTION  
TO RUN FOR PARLIAMENT (PRESUMABLY AS A DEPUTY) IN THE  
JUNE GENERAL ELECTIONS. HE HAD YET TO DECIDE WHETHER  
HE WOULD RUN AS THE LEADER OF A CENTER GROUPING OR AS  
AN INDEPENDENT. THIS WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER OR  
NOT SUFFICIENT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE BETWEEN NOW  
AND WHEN THE ELECTORAL LISTS CLOSE ON MAY 7 ON THE  
DEVELOPMEENT OF SA SUFFICIEINTLY COHERENT CENTER  
ELECTORAL ALLIANCE. HOWEVER, HE WILL MAKE CLEAR IN  
HIS RADIO TELEVISION SPEECH THAT HE ASSOCIATES  
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HIMSELF WITH THOSE GROUPS WHICH ARE: (A) MONARCHIST:  
(B) ANTI COMMUNISTS (C) MODERATE, AND (D) TRULY  
REFORMISTS. HE BELIEVED THAT THIS DEFINITION WOULD  
MAKE CLEAR HIS SUPPORT FOR THE CENTER SPECTRUM  
WHICH HE WANTS ENCOURAGED IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE  
POLARIZATION AND THUS RADICALIZATION OF THE RIGHT  
AND THE LEFT.

3. I SAID THAT WAS CONCERNED THAT THERE WAS STILL TOO MUCH FRAGMENTAION IN THE CENTER AND THAT ITS FAILURE TO PULL ITSELF TOGETHER WOULD ONLY CONCTIBUTE TO THE POLARIZAION HE FEARED. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE AGREED AND THSI WAS PRECISELY THE REASON WHY HE HAD DECIDED TO PRESENT HIS CANDIACY IN THE HOPE THAT THIS FACT, PLUS THE INDICATIONS HE WILL GIVE (AS NOTED ABOVE) OF HIS POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS, WILL HELP TO RPOMOTE GREATER UNITY OF THE CENTER.

4. LEGALZIATION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE WAS CONVICED THAT A FAIR MEANINGFUL AND ACCPETABLE ELECTIONS, BOTH IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TERMS, WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHIUT THE LEGALIZATION OF THE COMMUNIST APRTY. IT HAD BEEN A TOUGH DECISION OTO MAKE. AND HE HAD PAID A PRICE FOR IT IN TERMS OF THE ATTITUFE OF THE MILITARY BUT IT HAD BEEN A PRICE THAT WAS ACCPETABLE SINCE THE OVERALL RESULT. HE THOUGH WOULD BE ADVANGEDEOUS ALTHOUGH THERE WAS CONTINUED GROUBLING AMONGST THE MILITARY HE THOUGH THE SITUATION WAS UNDER CONTROL AND ANTICIPATED NO FURTHER TROUBLE, HE HIMSELF WAS IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH THE MILITARY TO TRYP TO CALM THEM DOWN. IN HIS RADIO TELEVISION ADDRESS THIS SATURDAY HE WOULD EXPLAIN TO THE NATION THE REASONS BEHIND THE LEGALIAZATION OF THE COMMUNISTS PARTY. WHILE STRESSING  
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THAT HE PERSONALLY WAS AND WOULD REMAIN A STAUNCH ANTI COMMUNITS. THE SUGGESTION MADE BY SOME OF THE RIGHT THAT HE HAD ENETRED INTO PACT WITH THE COMMUNISTS PARTY WAS ABSUREB AND TOTALLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. ALTHOUGH A PUBLIC OPINION POOL WHICH HAD JUST BEEN COMPLETED FOR THE GOVERNMENT SHOWED THAT YIM PERCENT UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED THE LEGALIZATION OF THE PCE, HE BELIEVED IT IMPORTANT THAT HE PERSONNALLY EXPLAIN THE MATTER TO THE COUNTRY, SUAREZ ADDED HIS VIEWS THAT THE ONLY WAY TO FIGHT THE COMMUNIST PARTY WAS ON IT OWN POIITCAL TERRIAN AND THE DEMCRATIC PARTIES MUST GIRD THEMSELVES UP TO DO THIS. IT WAS OBVIOUSLY NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO TRY TO DEAL WITH THE COMMUNISTS BY FILLING SPANISH JAILS.

5. ATTITUDE TOWARD RIGHTIST ALIANZA POPULAR. SUAREZ SAID THAT ALIANZA POPULAR HAD EXPLOITED THE RECENT EGALIZATION OF THE PCE TO THEIR ADVANTAGE IT

WAS HIS VIEW THAT ALIANZA POPULAR WOULD NO QUOTE WELL  
IN THE ELECTION UNLESS HE PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN  
THE ELECTIONS. HIS DECISION TO RUN AS A CANDIDATE  
WAS TO BE SEEN IN PART N THAT LIGHT. HE CONSIDERED  
THAT THERE WAS CERTAIN IDENTIFY OF VIEWS BETWEEN  
THE CENTER (EXLCUING RUIZ GIMENEZ AND GIL ROLES)  
AND ALIANZA POPULAR WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO  
ACCOUNT IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. FORTUNATELY  
THE ULTRA RIFHTISTS OF BLAS PINAR AND GIRON HAD  
GONE THEIR OWN WAY AND WERE DISAASSOCIATED FROM  
ALAINZA POPULAR. SUAREZ HINTED THAT THERE MIGHT  
BE SOME FORM OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CENTER AND  
ALIANZA POPULAR DURING AND AFTER THE ELECTIONS BUT  
CERTAINLY NO ALLIANCE. (ALIANZA POPULAR SOURCES  
TELL US THEY HAVE OFFERED TO SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION  
OF SUAREZ AS PRIME MINISTER AND WTH OUT ALIANZA  
ELEMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT IF SUAREZ AND THE CENTER  
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AGREE NOW TO ELECTORAL COALITIONS. SO AR ALIANZA HAS  
HAD NO REPLY) SUAREZ COMMENTED THAT ONLY AFTER  
THE ELECTIONS WHEN A MEASURE HAD BEEN TAKEN OF THE  
RELATIVE STRENGTH OF THE VARIOUS FORMATONS WOULD  
IT BE POSSIBLE TO TALK OF THE CREATION OF REAL  
POLITICAL PARTIES. THE MAJOR OBJECTIVE NOW MUST  
BE TO PREVENT POLARIZATION AND RADICALIZATION.

6. SPANISH SOCIALIST PARTY (PSOE) SUAREZ TOLD ME  
HE WAS TROUBLED BY THE ATTITUDE OF FELIP GONZALEZ  
AND THE PSOE, SINCE GONZALEZ CONTUINED TO ADOPT  
RADICAL POSITIONS. GONZALEZ WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED  
TO HIS (PRIME MINISTER) CANDIDACY. HE BELEIVED  
THAT GONZALEZ MADE A MISTAKE ONTHIS SINCE IF THERE  
SHOULD BE A COOLAPSE OF THE CENTER, OGONZALESZ WOULD  
FIND HIMSELF ISLOATED ON THE LEFT AND UNDER SHARP  
PRESSURE FROM THE COMMUNISTS. THE PRIME MINISTER  
GAVE THE IMPRESION THAT HIS ENCHANTMENT WITH THE  
PSOE WAS NOW OF THE PAST AND THAT COLLABORATION  
WITH THE SOCIALIATS WOULD BE DIFFICULT IF NOT  
IMPOSSIBLE. STABLER

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